

Waugh's warning to Windies

SYDNEY, Nov 16: Steve Waugh handed West Indies a warning with a timely Sheffield Shield century for New South Wales on Friday. Just seven days before the first Test in Brisbane, reports Reuter.

Waugh's Australian captain and opener Mark Taylor also showed useful form before the five Test series gets underway by scoring 53 in New South Wales 274 for seven at the close of the first day of the four day match against Queensland.

Waugh was out for 106 late in the final session, yoked by paceman Mike Procter, the best of Queensland's bowlers, who finished with three for 88 from 20 overs.

Taylor survived two early chances before he was caught by Kasprowicz from the bowling of left arm spinner Paul Jackson.

In Melbourne, former Test batsman Dean Jones gave a reminder of his ability with an unbeaten 121, his 51st first class century, as Victoria reached 270 for five against South Australia.

Cologne crush Bremen

BERLIN, Nov 16: Austrian striker Toni Polster, proving again he's too dangerous for a backup role, struck twice Friday to lead FC Cologne to a 4-1 rout of Werder Bremen in the Bundesliga, reports AP.

Struggling Borussia Moenchengladbach were also held to a scoreless draw at home by FC St Pauli, a result likely to increase the speculation that coach Bernd Krauss will be fired.

Polster's solo run in the 64th minute was followed by his seventh season goal 13 minutes later as Cologne tightened their hold on a UEFA Cup berth and fifth place.

Denmark's Henrik Andersen stacked Cologne to a 1-0 lead in the 27th minute with his first Bundesliga goal in four years. He pounced on an error by Bremen midfielder Andree Wassner.

Sponsors turn back on England cricket team

LONDON, Nov 16: England's cricket team are to lose long-time sponsors Carlsberg Telly, reports Reuter.

Tetty, who are understood to have pumped more than 10 million pounds (16 million dollars) into the English game since becoming involved in 1991, have cut short an agreement originally planned to extend until September 1999.

The company announced on Friday that it is not taking up the two-year option.

But Tetty spokesman John Haywood stressed that England's poor performances in recent years had not influenced the decision to end the sponsorship in September next year.

"Our decision was based entirely on the marketing requirements of Tetty," he said.

Adams gets the nod

CAPE TOWN, Nov 16: Unorthodox wrist-spinner Paul Adams will join the South African tour party in India, convener of selectors Peter Pollock announced on Friday, reports Reuter.

The Western Province player proved his return to fitness with figures of four for 68 from 23 overs on the opening day of his side's match with Boland at Newlands on Thursday.

Adams travels on Monday and will be available for selection for the first Test which begins in Ahmedabad on November 20.

"He probably won't play in the first Test but that decision will be left to the tour management," Pollock said.

Japanese media follow suit

TOKYO, Nov 16: Japanese broadcasters are following their American and European counterparts in a bulk deal for television rights to five future Olympic Games, press reports said today, reports AFP.

A consortium of Japanese public and private networks is considering paying more than 500 million dollars for three Summer Games and two Winter Games, beginning with the 2000 Olympics in Sydney, Kyodo news said.

The Japan Consortium (JC), representing the public-financed Japan Broadcasting Corp and major commercial networks, believes the unprecedented package deal could help curb soaring television costs, Jiji Press said.

NBC of the United States has agreed with the International Olympic Committee to pay a total 3.57 billion dollars for broadcasting rights to the five Games and the European Broadcasting Union (EBU) followed suit with payment of 1.44 billion dollars.

Rangers' fashion show

GLASGOW, Nov 16: Glasgow Rangers stars Paul Gascoigne, Brian Laudrup and Ally McCoist will be turning on the style when they strut the catwalk to show off their club's new leisure range, reports AFP.

The 1873 Range — which is named after the year the Scottish club was founded — will be modelled at a special fashion show on Monday night.

Graf keeps gaily going



PHILADELPHIA, Nov 16: Steffi Graf unleashed an impressive performance in a 6-0, 6-3 victory over Chanda Rubin Friday night in the quarterfinals of the 450,000 dollars Advanta Championships, reports Reuter.

Graf, the top seed and defending champion, will face unseeded American Marianne Werdel Witneyer, a 6-2, 6-3 winner over Barbara Paulus of Austria, in today's semifinals.

In other quarterfinal matches Friday, third-seed Jana Novotna used a variety of shots and approaches to quit hard-hitting American Anne Miller 6-3, 6-0. Novotna's opponent in today's semifinals will be Yayuk Basuki, who defeated local product Lisa Raymond 5-7, 6-3, 6-3.

Earlier Friday, Graf's father, Peter, was released from jail in Mannheim, Germany, where he had been held for the last 15 months on charges of tax evasion.

"Obviously I'm very happy for my father and my family," Graf said Friday. "I wish I could have been home, but I have two more weeks of tennis."

Graf said she would return to Germany after playing in next week's year-ending WTA tour Championships, where she is also the defending champion.

Against Rubin, Graf sailed through the first set in 19 minutes and didn't allow Rubin a game-point opportunity until the fourth game of the second set. Rubin held serve for the first time in the match to win that games, but couldn't manage a break point on Graf's serve the rest of the match.

Graf said she wasn't surprised she was able to play so well after a long layoff. She had played in only one tournament since the US Open due to a left knee injury.

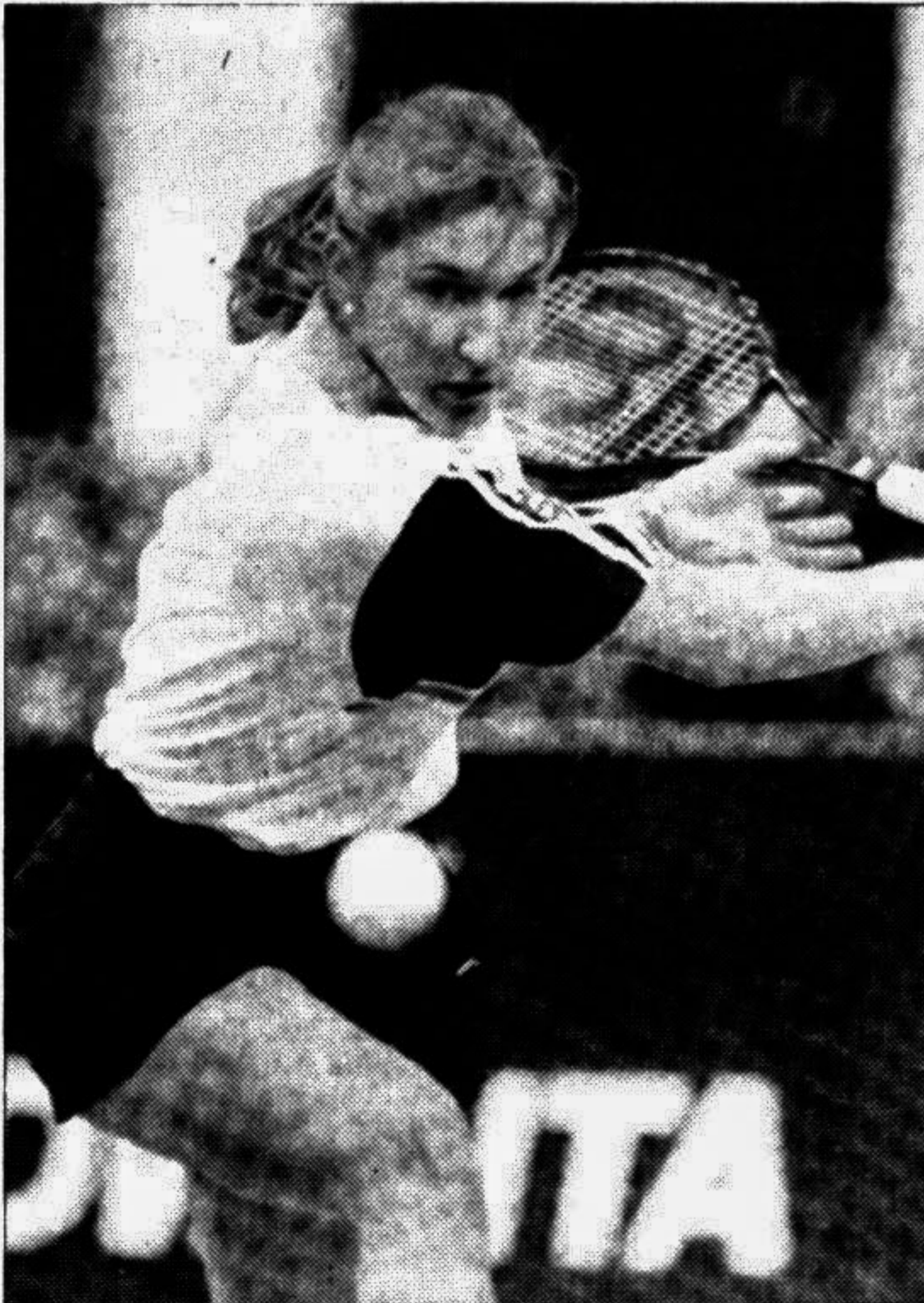
"I've done it so many times," she said. "But I'm still impressed I can do it."

The veteran Novotna dropped the first three games to Miller before winning the next 12 games in a row, negating the

19-year-old's power from the baseline by utilizing her customary slices, drop shots and net approaches.

Miller appeared to have Novotna broken in the fifth game of the second set. But Novotna's double-fault was overruled by the chair umpire. Visibly affected, Miller hit her next two returns out, and Novotna went on to hold serve and then won the match a game later.

After losing a 58-minute first set to Raymond, the 33rd-ranked Basuki didn't lose a service game the rest of the match, and used early service breaks in the second and third sets to move into her third semifinal of the years.



Germany's Steffi Graf makes a backhand return against Chanda Rubin of the United States during their quarterfinal engagement of the Advanta Championships in Pennsylvania on Nov 15. Steffi won 6-0, 6-3. — Reuter/UNB photo

Peter Graf's ordeal over



MANNHEIM, Germany, Nov 16: Tennis star Steffi Graf's father paid five million marks (3.3 million dollars) in bail and headed home from prison on Friday after being held in investigative custody for the last 15 months, reports Reuter.

A German court trying him on tax evasion charges ruled he no longer needed to remain in custody after an objection by prosecutors was rejected by a higher court later in the day.

Peter Graf slipped through the courtroom back door, shook the hands of his lawyers and friends, and left in a brown car — the kind he used to sell before becoming a regular on the tennis circuit.

"I want to be at home," he told journalists. When asked if he had telephoned his daughter Steffi who is playing in a tournament in Philadelphia, Peter shook his head. He was not allowed to say any more as the case is still continuing.

The Mannheim court said Graf, 58, would have to report to police twice a week and receive psychotherapy. His mental health during his time in custody has been the subject of German newspaper speculation.

Graf has always been an important figure in the life of his millionaire daughter. They were virtually inseparable until being arrested in August last year after tax officials raided their home.

Although Steffi, 27, has performed remarkably well in the last 15 months, she has broken down several times in public when asked about the pressure of the tax affairs.

Family financial adviser Joachim Eckardt was also released on bail after paying 300,000 marks and handing in his passport.

Graf's lawyer Franz Salditt told reporters: "We will celebrate together in a quieter place."

Graf could be taken back into custody if the Karlsruhe court upholds other objections from the prosecution but Salditt said he did not know whether this would happen.

Graf is accused of evading 19 million marks (13 million dollars) of tax on his daughter's earnings between 1989 and 1993.

Steffi says she knew little about her financial affairs, entrusting them to her father from the start of a career which has taken her to the number one spot in women's tennis.

The Mannheim court ruled Graf was unlikely to skip bail because of his strong ties to Germany and his commitment to holding onto Steffi's earnings. It said he wouldn't want to jeopardise this by breaking his bail conditions.

He also knows what the personal and professional results would be for his daughter if he was to flee," the ruling said.

After handing over a banker's draft and his passport, he left the courtroom, mobbed by cameramen and reporters.

Woodies scrape through



HARTFORD, Connecticut, Nov 16: Todd Woodbridge and Mark Woodford lost their final round-robin match Friday, but still will be going to the Phoenix-ATP Tour Doubles Championship semifinals as the favourites, reports Reuter.

The top-ranked Woodies, the dominant team in the world since they began full-time partnership in 1991, fell to American Alex O'Brien and Canadian Sebastian Lareau, 4-6, 6-3, 7-5.

"Maybe, it's a good omen," said Woodbridge. "Because the last time we won this event (1992) we also went into the semifinals with a loss."

The final four is now set for today, with the Woodies playing Scott Connell of Canada and Byron Black of Zimbabwe in one semifinal. In the other

another damaging setback in the opening Friday match.

The Dutchmen fell to previously winless Libor Pimek of Belgium and Byron Talbot of South Africa, 6-7 (7-5), 7-5, 6-4.

The tall and slender Pimek, guilty of some frustrating errors the day before, made amends with steady serves and crushing volleys against the Dutch tandem.

Kronemann and MacPherson, another 0-2 team going into the day's play, pulled a mild surprise in a 4-6, 7-5, 7-6 (7-2) victory over Sweden's Jonas Bjorkman and Nicklas Kulti.

Kronemann and MacPherson lost one match point at 6-5 on Bjorkman's serve but won the final tiebreaker decisively.

"I thought we played a great tiebreaker," said Kronemann, who served out the match. "It's been a long time since we won a match 7-6 in the third."



Action during yesterday's Smah kabaddi league quarterfinal between Azad Sporting Club and Arunoday Juba Sangha. — Star photo

Another chapter from Diego

BUENOS AIRES, Nov 16: An Argentine judge on Friday imposed a media gag order on reporting on a seven-month-old baby girl whose mother has filed a paternity suit against soccer star Diego Maradona, reports Reuter.

Judge Graciela Adriana Varela sent a written warning to the media citing a UN convention on the rights of the child and warned them against "publishing any news or data involving this minor in the case, on pain of a fine."

The 20-year-old woman identified only as Valeria filed the suit on Monday at a Buenos Aires family court. Her lawyers expect the court to order genetic tests within a few days which they say will prove Maradona is the father of the baby girl.

The 36-year-old soccer star, married with two daughters, is already upset at the arrest and imprisonments of his manager and friend Guillermo Coppola on drug-dealing charges and said this latest scandal left him with no more strength to fight.

"They have beaten me. It's hard to accept because I've been a fighter all my life, but that's it I've taken of my gloves, I've no more strength to fight," he told radio.

Becker travels to Hanover for the season-ending tournament as defending champion and has the psychological boost of some brilliant performances at last month's Stuttgart Open when he beat world number one Pete Sampras in the final.

There are rumours circulating in Germany that the Australian Open champion, who celebrates his 29th birthday during the tournament, may be thinking of bringing his career to an end in the next 18 months.

Becker's son Noah Gabriel will be three in January and it is believed that the player wants a more stable family life with less of the travelling that the tour demands.

Becker is expected to have another crack at his favourite tournament Wimbledon next year. If he were to win it for a fourth time, some observers seriously believe he would announce his retirement from the game almost immediately.

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Nagano ticket prices fixed

CANCUN, Mexico, Nov 16: A total of 1.28 million tickets will go on sale next year for the 1998 Winter Olympics at Nagano, Japan with prices ranging from 18 dollars to 315 dollars, reports AP.

Nagano organisers received approval Friday from the IOC executive board for their ticket programme and sports schedule.

The organising committee said 710,000 tickets will be available to the Japanese public, 370,000 to Olympic sponsors and officials and 200,000 to international buyers.

Applications for domestic subscriptions will begin in February, while international sales will start next March through official ticket agencies.

The premium seats for the opening ceremony on Feb. 7, 1998, will cost 315 dollars. Top tickets for figure skating and the medal rounds in ice hockey are priced at 270.

The cheapest tickets go for 18 dollars and are available for some events in cross-country and freestyle skiing, bobsleigh, luge, curling, snowboarding, biathlon and women's ice hockey.

The organising committee said it will receive 45 million dollars from ticket sales. The budget for the games is 855 million dollars.

On another issue, Nagano officials said they were studying the possibility of issuing Olympic identity and accreditation card to reduce the waiting time after their arrival in Japan.

Giuliani breathes his last

BOLOGNA, Italy, Nov 16: Italian Giuliano Giuliani, the goalkeeper for Diego Maradona's Napoli in their glory years, has died, hospital officials said on Friday, reports Reuter.

Giuliani, 38, died of a "grave illness" late on Thursday in the infectious diseases ward of the Policlinico Sant Orsola in the northern city of Bologna, the officials said. They gave no further details.

Giuliani began his career at Third Division Arezzo in 1976 and also played Serie H soccer at Como and Verona before retiring in 1993 after helping Udinese win promotion to the top flight.

His high point came at Napoli where he won the UEFA Cup in 1989 and the league title in 1990 with Maradona.

World Super v'ball results

OSAKA, Japan, Nov 16: Atlanta Olympic bronze medalists Brazil chalked up a three-set win over Thailand today to hold a narrow lead in the World Super Challenge women's volleyball tournament, reports AFP.

The Brazilian spikers, who shocked Olympic champions Cuba on the opening day, powered their way to a 15-7, 15-2, 15-4 victory in their first encounter against Thailand.

Brazil, Cuba and silver medalists China each have three wins and a loss with one match remaining in the six-team tournament, with Brazil at the head of the table by virtue of better ratio of sets won and lost.

Fan China's best booter

BEIJING, Nov 16: Shanghai Shenhua captain Fan Zhiyu has been chosen as China's footballer-of-the-year for the second consecutive year, the official Xinhua news agency reported Friday, reports AFP.

However, the centre forward for Shanghai and the national team lost his "golden shoes" title which this year went to Su Maozhen, the Shandong Taishan striker, who scored 13 goals in the season.

Fan Zhiyu led Shanghai to second place in the championship, seven points behind Dalian Wanda which outclassed all its rivals and took the title without losing a match.

Dalian coach Chi Shanguin was named best coach and the "Golden whistle" award for the top referee went to Lu Jun.

For revisitation of a dream



BOHN, Nov 16: German tennis fans are realising that the days of watching Boris Becker winning a major tournament on his home soil are coming to an end. Next week's ATP World Championship in therefore precious, reports Reuter.

Becker travels to Hanover for the season-ending tournament as defending champion and has the psychological boost of some brilliant performances at last month's Stuttgart Open when he beat world number one Pete Sampras in the final.

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Germans as much as Becker has done in the last decade — especially in an indoor arena where the incessant clapping and cheering can be deafening.

Local fans have snapped up tickets for the first championship to be held in the central German city.

The event, which starts on Tuesday, brings together the world's top eight players and is



BOBIS BECKER — contested over two round-robin groups in the early stages. Each player is therefore guaranteed at least three matches.

Becker and Sampras are joined by Americans Michael Chang and Andre Agassi, Croat Goran Ivanisevic, Russian Yevgeny Kafelnikov, Australian Thomas Muster and Dutchman Richard Krajicek.

It is regarded as the most important competition after the four Grand Slams — Wimbledon and the Australian, French and US Opens.

Just a few months ago Becker was in plaster after his Wimbledon campaign was destroyed by a wrist injury. But the German has surprised himself with his return to form on the fast indoor courts which suit his serve-and-volley game.

Becker traditionally plays some of his best tennis at this time of year. He has won the championship, formerly known as the Masters three times — in 1988 when the event was held in New York and in 1992 and 1995 in Frankfurt.

Sampras knows the German will be a formidable opponent on his home soil. "He is one of the best indoor players I have ever played," the American said.

Sampras who has won the championship twice, and Becker must be the two favourites. But Agassi won the tournament in 1990 and Chang, who has improved his game dramatically on faster courts in recent years, reached last year's final.

Jansher's status at stake



KARACHI, Nov 16: Pakistan's Jansher Khan begins the defence of his World Open squash title on Sunday knowing he has never fought a more important home campaign, reports Reuter.

Jansher's avowed ambition is to reverse the record of his legendary compatriot Jahangir Khan who won six World Open titles and ten British Open titles.

Jansher will be going for his sixth British title in Cardiff next April, but although his World Open tally already stands at a record seven at 27, the little Pakistani world number one cannot afford to waste any future title opportunities.

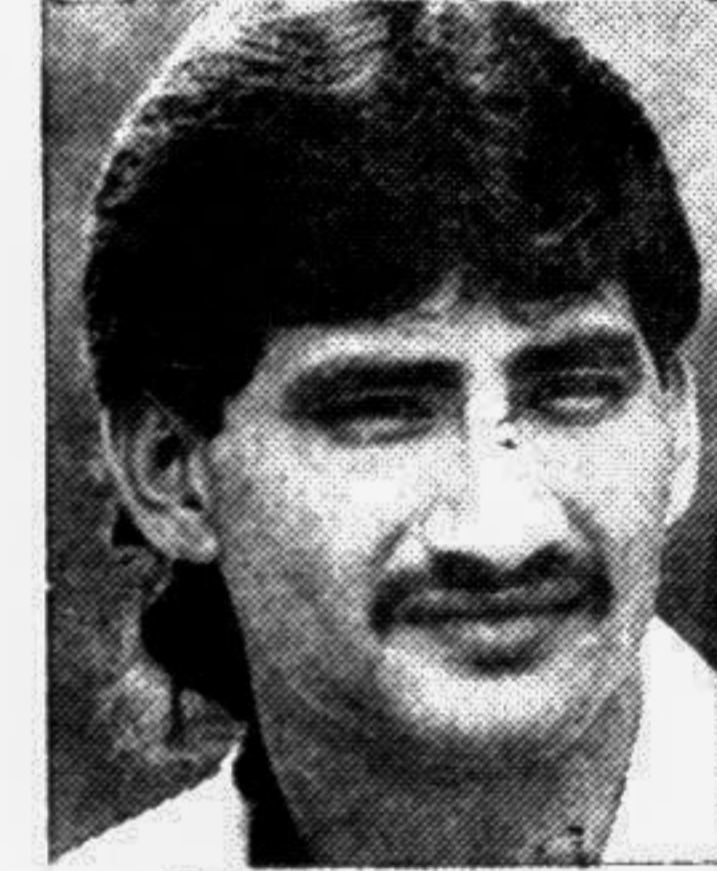
Jansher won his first World title at the age of 18 when he swept out of Nawakilli, in the hills above Peshawar, to defeat Jahangir in the semifinals of the 1987 championship in Birmingham and then overturned Australia's Chris Dittmar in the final.

The decade that followed yielded 75 wins in major championships against only 42 defeats in all competition, but the effort involved now appears to be taking its toll.

He lost the Hong Kong Open final to Australia's Rodney Eyles, the world number two, back in September and, although he won both the Gesira Open in Egypt and the Qatar

International in between, he lost again to Australia's unseeded Craig Rowland, in last month's Tournament of Champions semifinals in New York.

Only two players, New Zealand's Ross Norman and Australia's Rodney Martin, have interrupted the control exerted by Jahangir and Jansher over the World Open title since 1981, and in all that time no



JANSHER KHAN — foreign player has ever defeated them on Pakistani soil.

Were Jansher to come unstuck in the 30,000 dollars event, the fans who took long enough to accept him as a replacement for the idolised Jahangir could force him to snub back to Nawakilli.

Jansher was ill-prepared for

the start of the PSA World Tour in Hong Kong, was caught seriously unprepared by Rowland in New York and withdrew suspiciously late from last week's German Masters in Nottigen.

The draw there was remarkably similar to next week's World Open draw and offers him a probable second round encounter with the hottest player on the circuit at the moment — Jonathon Power of Canada.

Power became the first North American ever to win a major PSA World Tour event when he swept through a start-studded field as a qualifier to frustrate Rowland in the final of the Tournament of Champions.

He then went to the German Masters as a qualifier and beat England's Simon Parke in the final.

If the defending champion contains Power in Karachi, his next opponent could well be Parke.

Eyles starts against Irish champion Derek Ryan, a notoriously troublesome opponent for even the best players, and is then scheduled to meet two more Australians, Anthony Hill and Brett Martin on his way to the final.

Martin is seeded three but, aged 33 and perhaps beginning to show the first signs of those years, he has failed to progress beyond the first round of the last three World Tour events.

Wheels within wheels



TOKYO, Nov 16: Conflict is looming among 15 Japanese communities vying for a slice of the 2002 football World Cup to be jointly hosted with South Korea, reports AFP.

Judging from the proportions of the contest, our country cannot afford more than 10 venues," Ken Naganuma, president of the Japanese Football Association, said Wednesday.

Naganuma, who also heads the Japanese committee for World Cup preparations, added: "We will decide venues (in Japan) through discussion."

He was speaking after the committee confirmed that not more than 10 Japanese cities would host matches in the tournament.

But none of the 15 candidate communities were ready to give up.

They have chipped in 235 million yen (2.1 million dollars) each for Japan's World Cup bidding campaign on the condition that they would be allowed to stage some of the matches.

"We would never step down," said Morio Kimura, governor of Aomori.

His northern province was to build a 42,000-seat soccer stadium in its main city.

"We hope that the committee would set criteria for the selection of venues promptly and precisely," said Hiromi Watanabe, a project coordinator at the city office of Sapporo.

In May, the international football federation (FIFA) worked out a compromise to allow both Japan and South Korea to stage 2002 World Cup matches after the historically bitter ties between the two Asian neighbours soured further over their rival bids.

FIFA set the size of the 2002 World Cup at 64 matches involving 32 nations, unchanged from the 1998 finals in France. They rejected Japan's request

that the teams be increased to 40 so that most of the Japanese candidates would be able to have a slice of the pie.

Japan and South Korea set aside their bitter rivalry to agree on key points of the first-ever World Cup to be hosted in Asia and by more than one country.

The showpiece final will be held in Japan and the opening ceremony and opening match will be held in South Korea. The tournament will be called the 2002 World Cup Korea-Japan.

But a major stumbling block remains at home.

The Japanese committee has promised to return the cash contributions if candidates do not get at least three matches each.

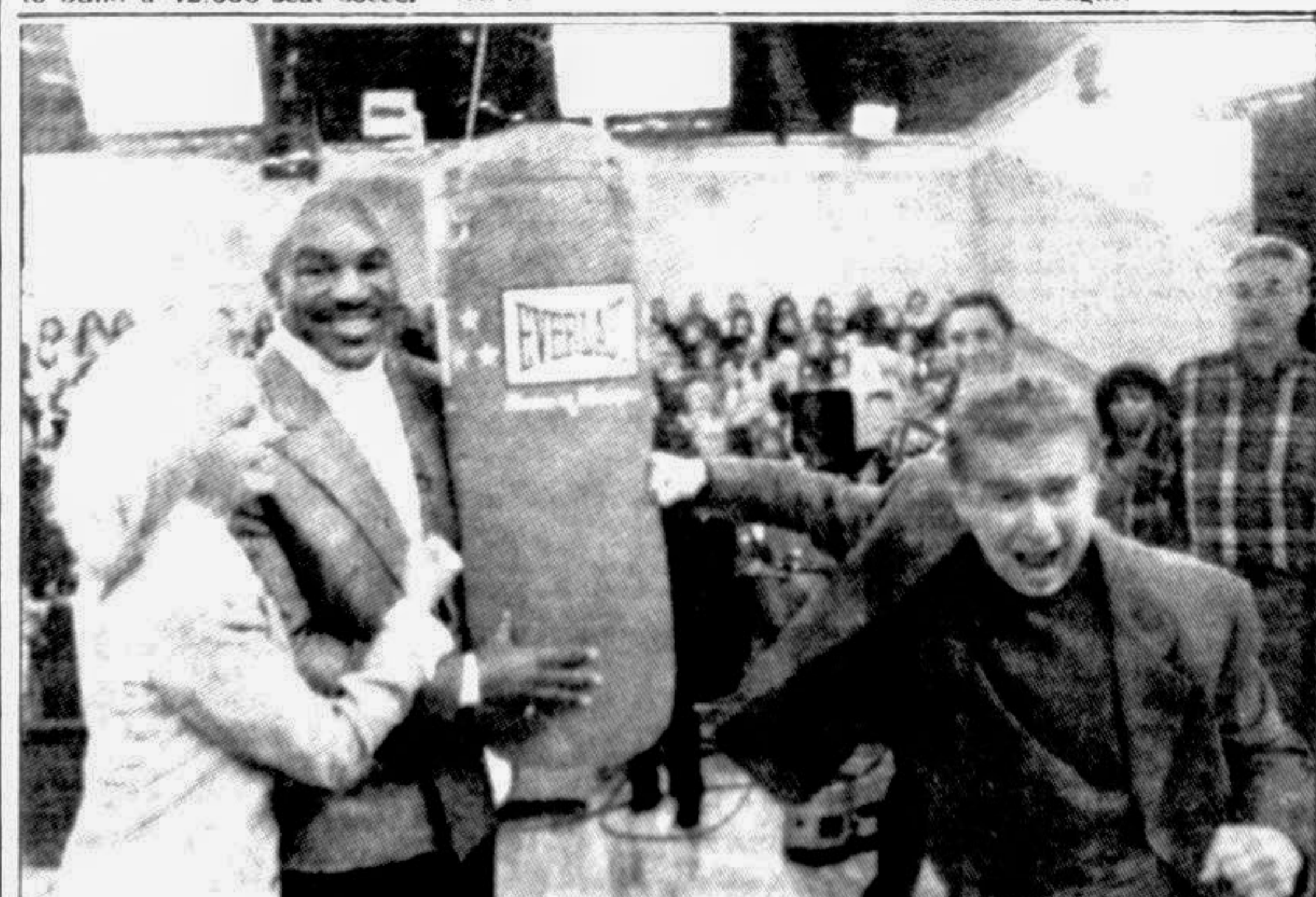
"We understand that we would get the money back if we don't put our hand down by ourselves," said an official from one candidate city.

Of the 15 candidates, 11 have to build new stadia for the World Cup — including a 70,000-seat arena in Yokohama south of Tokyo.

The number of venues will be somewhere between eight and 10. It's going to be a tough choice," said Saburo Kawabuchi, chairman of the professional J League.

WC qualifiers Guatemala to play away

ZURICH, Nov 16: Guatemala's remaining three World Cup qualifying matches will be played outside the country following the October tragedy in Guatemala City that left nearly 100 people dead, announced FIFA here on Friday, reports AFP.



WBA heavyweight champion Evander Holyfield (2nd from left) shares a moment with Kathie Lee Gifford (L) and Regis Philbin during an appearance on their television show in New York on Nov 15. — Reuter/UNB photo